AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A suturing device comprising:

a housing;

a shaft <u>at least partially disposed within a portion of the housing and</u> extending distally from a distal end of the housing;

a needle movable within <u>a needle lumen associated with</u> the shaft and <u>that extends toward a proximal end of</u> ~~respect to~~ the housing, the needle being attached to a length of suture; and

a suture cutting blade positioned on the housing such that when the needle is withdrawn from the device, the suture can be drawn across the blade to sever the suture.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing further includes a proximal end, and the blade is positioned near the distal end of the housing.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 3, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing further includes a proximal end, and the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the housing.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the blade is mounted on an outside of the housing.

8.   (Original)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing is a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface, and the blade is mounted on the inner surface.

9.   (Original)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a finger grip and the blade is mounted on the finger grip.

10.   (Original)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises a movable handle, and the blade is mounted on the movable handle.

11.   (Original)   The suturing device of claim 1, wherein the needle has a distal end and the suture is attached to the distal end of the needle.

12.   (Currently Amended) A suturing device comprising:

a housing having a proximal end and a distal end;

a suture cutting blade positioned on the housing;

an elongate shaft at least partially disposed within the housing and extending distally from the distal end of the housing, the elongate shaft having a distal end region;

a needle actuation handle movable through the proximal end of the housing;

a needle extending from the needle actuation handle, through the housing and further through a needle lumen associated with the shaft that extends toward the proximal end of the housing; and

a suture carried by the device, wherein a portion of the suture is positioned near the distal end region of the shaft such that the needle pulls the suture proximally to position the suture through tissue.

13.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the distal end of the housing.

14.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 13, wherein the needle pulls the suture through the proximal end of the housing.

15.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing defines an opening near the distal end, and the blade is positioned in the opening.

16.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the needle and the suture are withdrawn from the proximal end of the housing.

17.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is positioned near the proximal end of the housing.

18.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the blade is mounted on the outside of the housing.

19.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing is a hollow body having a proximal opening and an inner surface, and the blade is mounted on the inner surface.

20.   (Original) The suturing device of claim 12, wherein the housing includes a finger grip and the blade is mounted on the finger grip.